ARTICLES
OF
Visitation and Enquiry,
EXHIBITED
To the *Ministers, Churchwardens* and *Sidemen*
of every Parish in the DIOCESS
OF
GLOUCESTER;
In the Second Triennial VISITATION of the
Right Reverend Father in GOD,
EDWARD
LORD BISHOP of *GLOUCESTER,*
An. Dom. MDCXCVIII.

OXFORD,
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The Oath of the Churchwardens.

YOU ſhall Swear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Churchwarden within your Pariſh, according to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge, and preſent ſuch Things and Perſons, as you know to be Preſentable by the Eccleſiaſtical Laws of this Realm.

So help you God.

The Sidemens Oath.

YOU ſhall Swear that you will be aſſiſtant to your Churchwardens in the execution of their Office, ſo far as by Law you are bound.

So help you God.

ARTICLES of ENQUIRY for the Viſitation of the DIOCESS of *GLOUCESTER*, 1698.

TIT. I. *Concerning Churches and Chapels.*

1. IS your Church or Chapel in good and ſufficient Repair, in the Roof, Walls, Windows, Floor, Seats and Dores? And alſo the Chancel, to whomſoever it belongeth?

2. Is there a ſtone Font with a Cover, ſtanding in the uſual place? Is there a decent Communion-Table ſtanding in your Chancel, covered with a Carpet in time of Divine Service, and with a fair linnen Cloth when the Communion is adminiſtred? And have you a ſilver Communion-Cup with a Cover, and one or more Flagons, and theſe only kept for that Uſe?

3. Have you a large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, two Books of Common-Prayer as Reviſed 1662, a Book of Homilies, a Printed Table of Degrees of Marriage, a Book of Canons made 1603, and a decent Surplice, with other Neceſſaries for your Church, provided at the Charge of your Pariſh?

4. Have you a Parchment Book, for Regiſtering all Chriſtnings, Weddings and Burials, and are they duly Regiſtered, and the Book kept according to the Direction of the Canon? And is there a Tranſcript thereof ſent Yearly to the Chancellor's Office, as the Law directs?

5. Have you a Book for entering Pariſh Accounts, and are they yearly audited? Have you an Inventory of the Plate, Books, and other Utenſils belonging to your Church? And is this duly transferred from one Churchwarden to another?

TIT. II. *Concerning the Churchyard, Houſes, Glebe and Tythes belonging to your Church.*

1. IS your Churchyard well fenced with a Wall or Rayles, decently kept free from Anoyance? Have there any Incroachments been made, or new Dores opened into it? And when?

2. Is

2. Is your Miniſter's Houſe, and the Out-houſes belonging thereto, in good and ſufficient Repair? Have any of them been demoliſhed or damaged, or the Bounds of them changed, or removed, without Authority from the Biſhop?

3. Have you an exact Terrier kept in your Pariſh-Cheſt of all the Houſes, Out-houſes, Glebe-lands, and other Dues belonging to your Miniſter, according to the Rules ſent you by the Chancellor? And is there a true Copy thereof in Parchment ſent into the Biſhop's Regiſtry, atteſted under the Hands of the Miniſter and Pariſhioners?

TIT. III. *Concerning Miniſters.*

1. IS your Miniſter Reſident among you? If not, doth he keep a ſufficient Curate? And what Salary doth he allow him?

2. Doth your Miniſter ſerve more than one Church in a Day? If ſo, how far diſtant is each from the other? And are the Incombes of each Church ſo ſmall as not to afford a Competency for two diſtinct Miniſters? Expreſs the Value of each Church.

3. Is your Miniſter a Perſon of ſober and godly Life?

4. Doth your Miniſter reverently read Divine Service on Sundays and Holy-days, and doth he Preach at leaſt once every Sunday?

5. Doth your Miniſter adminiſter the Lord's Supper ſo often, that every Pariſhioner may receive it at leaſt three times every Year, giving Notice of it the Lord's Day before? Doth he keep wicked Livers, and ſuch as appear not to be in Charity with their Neighbours, from the Sacrament, giving an Account thereof to the Ordinary?

6. Doth he diligently inſtruct the Youth of your Pariſh in the Church-Catechiſm, and endeavour to prepare them for Confirmation? Is he careful to viſit the Sick, baptize Children, bury the Dead? And doth he uſe the Form and

Words

Words, the Rites and Habit preſcrib'd in the Common-Prayer, in the Adminiſtration of the Holy Sacrament?

7. Hath your Miniſter knowingly Married any under Age, without the conſent of Parents, or without Publication of Banes, or Licence legally obtain'd from the Chancellor of the Dioceſs?

8. Doth your Miniſter duly read in time of Divine Service the late Act againſt profane Swearing and Curſing, on the 4 Lord's Days appointed by the Act of Parliament, and hath he openly read the KING's late Proclamation againſt Debauchery and Profaneneſs?

TIT. IV. *Concerning Pariſhioners.*

1. DO your Pariſhioners reverently demean themſelves in the Church, during the time of Divine Service, and Preaching God's Word?

2. Do any of your Pariſh lie under a notorious Fame, or common Suſpicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers, Curſers or Blaſphemers of God's Holy Name; any filthy Talkers, Revilers, ſowers of Sedition among their Neighbours?

3. Are there any that profane the Lord's Day, by following their Callings, by uſing of Sports, going to Ale-houſes, or lying idly at home in the time of Divine Service, or that under pretence of Liberty of Conſcience, totally neglect the Worſhip of God?

4. Are there any that refuſe to pay their *Eaſter*-Offerings, or Church-Rates, made by the Churchwardens, after due Notice given?

5. Hath any Legacy left to pious Uſes been miſpent, conceal'd, or embezel'd, by whom?

6. Do you know, or have heard of any in your Pariſh, that having the Preſentation of any Eccleſiaſtical Living, have made any Contract for Money, or for any part of the Tythes or Glebe belonging thereunto?

7. Are

7. Are any Wills conceal'd, loſt, or neglected to be proved?

8. Have you an Account of pious and charitable Gifts belonging to your Pariſh, kept in the Church Cheſt, according to the Inſtructions ſent you by the Chancellor of the Dioceſs? And have any been lately given, that are not yet Regiſter'd?

TIT. V. *Concerning Pariſh Clerks and Sextons.*

1. IS your Pariſh Clerk of ſober Life and honeſt Converſation? Able to diſcharge his Duty in reading or ſinging the Pſalms? Doth he duly attend the Miniſter at Church, and are his Wages juſtly paid him, according to the Cuſtom of your Pariſh?

2. Is your Sexton (if any) careful to keep the Church clean and decent, doth he lock up the Church Dores in due time, and toll or ring the Bells as occaſion requires?

TIT. VI. *Concerning Schools and Hoſpitals.*

1. WHat School-maſter, publick or private, is in your Pariſh? Is he Licenſed thereunto? Doth he teach his Scholars the Church-Catechiſm? Doth he bring them to Church on Sundays and Holy-days, to be Catechized by the Miniſter in the publick Congregation?

2. What Hoſpitals, Alms-Houſes, or Free-Schools have been founded in your Pariſh? Are they manag'd according to the Founder's Gift? Are their Rents and Salaries duly paid, and do you know of any Abuſes committed therein?

TIT. VII. *Concerning Churchwardens.*

1. ARE your Churchwardens duly Choſen according to the Cuſtom of your Pariſh, with the Conſent of the Miniſter.

2. Have the laſt Churchwardens given up their Accounts, and delivered the Overplus to the ſucceeding Officers? With all the other things that belong to your Church?

3. Do they provide againſt every Communion a ſufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine?

4. Do the Churchwardens diſpoſe of the Offerings at the Communion, without the Conſent of the Miniſter? And is that Money enter'd into a Book?

5. Do your Churchwardens laviſhly ſpend the Pariſh Money at Viſitations, in Feaſts and Riotous Eating and Drinking?

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

1. *THE Minister of each Parish, whose Duty it is to endeavour, what lies in him, to suppress all Vice and Profaneness, if he sees his Churchwardens to make no Conscience of their Oaths, may, and ought to present Notorious Crimes and Offenders.*

2. *The Churchwardens are to take Notice, That if they neglect their Duty, in presenting Offenders, they are to be proceeded against in the Ecclesiastical Court, as in Cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.*

EDW. Gloucester.

Instructions *to make new and exact* Terriers, *at least once in* 20 *Years, to preserve the Rights of the Clergy from pretended Exemptions, and unjust Compositions; and to ascertain the Bounds of their Glebe, by reason of Alterations that may happen in that space of time, both in Mens, and Places Names.*

1. YOU are to express what Houses belong to your Minister, how many Bays of Building, what Out-houses, Barns or Stables, what Orchards and Gardens, and the quantity thereof?

2. What Glebe-lands belong to your Minister? How butted and bounded? Of what quantity? Whether Arable or Pasture? Whether any have been changed, and for what? By whose Authority, and by whom detain'd? And whether the Church hath suffered any Detriment thereby?

3. What Lands or Estates pretend to be Tythe free, and upon what account as you have heard? What Compositions are there in your Parish? And what do the pay in lieu of full Tythes?

4. What are the Customs of your Parish in Tything? As for Mortuarys, Offerings, Aftermoate, Agistment, Herbage, Milk, Calves, Lambs, and the like? What Beast Pastures, or Right of Common are due to your Minister?

5. What Tythes belong to the Impropriator? What to the Vicar? What Stipend is due from the Impropriator to the Curate? What Portions of Tythes are due to, or from the Church?

6. What Augmentations have been added to your Church, since the 12*th* Year of K. *Charles* the Second? How are they continued, and by whom paid according to the Act in the 29*th* of *Charles* the Second, for the confirming and perpetuating Augmentations made Ecclesiastical to small Vicaridges and Curacies?

7. This Terrier thus made in Parchment, one Copy is to be laid in the Parish Chest, and the other sent into the Bishop's Registry. And the Minister is to take Care herein; for none shall be received without his Approbation, under Hand and Seal.

Richard Parsons, LL. Dr.
CHANCELLOR.

Instructions *for an Account of* Charitable Gifts, *to prevent the Abuses, and Concealment thereof.*

1. YOU are to mention what Lands, Goods, Stocks of Money, Tenements, Pensions, Rent-Charges, or other things that have been given to any Pious Use, within your Parish.

2. What are the Uses design'd for such Gifts? Whether for Reparation of the Church, Preaching of Sermons, Relief of the Poor, Education of Orphans, Binding out of Apprentices, or the like?

3. How are such Gifts secured? Where are the Evidences, Bonds, Deeds, Wills, or other Conveyances kept? In whose Hands is any Money trusted, is there good and sufficient Security, and is your Minister acquainted with the Management thereof?

4. Have any Charitable Gifts bestowed on your Parish been lost, detain'd, or mis-employ'd? By whom, and in what manner have you been wronged? Specify at large.

5. You are to mention if there be any Free-School, or Hospital within your Parish, by whom Erected, and how Endowed, and who are the present Trustees for the same?

6. Have any Charitys been given to your Parish since the last Account, 1683?

7. If you have no Charitable Gifts as yet bequeathed to your Parish, certify the same under your Hands by the time appointed?

The Minister and Churchwardens are ordered to call a Parish-Meeting sometime before *Michaelmass* next, to consult how to make a *Terrier* of the Minister's Dues, and an Account of all *Charitable Gifts* according to these Directions, and to send a Transcript thereof in Parchment into the Bishop's Registry by the First of *October* next; and to keep the other Part in the Parish-Chest. If these things are already compleat in your Parish-Chest, send a Certificate thereof by the First of *October* next under the Minister's Hand. If they are wanting, the Churchwardens are hereby admonished to procure them by the time prefixed, with the Minister's Hand thereto; or else the Churchwardens will be proceeded against in both these Cases for Contempt.

Glouceſter
May 14.
1698.

Rich. Parſons, LL. D.
Cancel. GLOUCEST.